(i) The most important and the foremost is that the Government has announced the introduction of Tonnage Tax for the Shipping industry with an option for the shipping companies to opt out of either tonnage tax or corporate tax. 20% of the book profits of the companies opting for tonnage tax scheme to be transferred to a separate reserve to be utilized for acquisition of vessels within 8 years;

(ii) Import of all types of ships have been included in the Open General License (OGL);

(iii) Ships (including second hand ships) can be imported freely now without license as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Shipping on 15th June, 2001 and 5th March, 2002;

(iv) 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in shipping sector; and

(v) Enhancement of Depreciation rate from 20% to 25% for ships.

Dredging operation at Kolkata Port

488. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target of dredging operation at the Kolkata Port Trust since 1995; amd

(b) the achievement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) From 1995 to 2001, the annual targeted maintenance dredging quantum was 22 MM^3. Since 2001, the target is to maintain a minimum comfort level of 5 metres depth at Jellingham.

(b) The quantity dredged at Kolkata Port from 1995-96 to 2003-04 is as under:

Year	Total quantity dredged (in MM^3)
1996-97	10.94
1997-98	13.27
1998-99	24.71
1999-2000	20.99
2000-01	21.277
2001-2002	22.325

Since 2002-03, Dredging Corporation of India Limited is depth oriented and not based on volume. Targeted depth is 5.0 metres at Jellingham. Depth achieved is between 4.8 metres and 5.0 metres.

SSIs in Uttar Pradesh

489. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries set up in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and till date;

(b) the number out of these that have been declared as sick;

(c) the number of workers that were employed in these units;

(d) the number of workers that have been rendered unemployed due to sickness of these units; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) As reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the number of small scale industries set up and registered in the State during the year 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (April-June) were 30361, 30454 and 6474, respectively.